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tender initiator should determine the type of commodity the tender covers (step 303). In the embodiment shown in Figures 3A and 3B, this selection is made from preredefined petroleum products. The tender initiator may also select a tender identification number to identify the tender (step 304). This identification number should be unique for all of the tenders or for each user. It is also possible for a user identification code, acronym, or name followed by the tender identification number to be used to uniquely identify the tender. Alternatively, the tender identification number can be automatically generated by the System.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 2, 3, 7, 12-14, 18, 25, 27, 30-34 and 36.

Please amend the following claims:

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1. (Amended) A system for utilizing at least one tender, comprising:
 - a storage device storing data which relates to the at least one tender;
 - and
 - a processing device transmitting information corresponding to the data, wherein the at least one tender is provided for a complex multi-variable commodity, the processing device further enabling a user to request an exception to create or modify a term of the at least one tender,
 - wherein the complex multi-variable commodity is a particular commodity whose price determination is based on a variation of a plurality of variable characteristics regarding a physical characteristic of the particular commodity.
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11. (Amended) A method for utilizing at least one tender, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving data for the at least one tender, the at least one tender being provided for a complex multi-variable commodity;
 - transmitting information corresponding to the data to a device; and
 - accepting user input for generating an exception to create or modify a

term of the at least one tender,

Q3 wherein the complex multi-variable commodity is a particular commodity whose price determination is based on a variation of a plurality of variable characteristics regarding a physical characteristic of the particular commodity,

wherein at least one variable characteristic is a physical characteristic of a particular commodity.

17. (Amended) A system for utilizing at least one tender, comprising:

a storage device storing data which relates to the at least one tender;

Q4 and

a processing device transmitting information corresponding to the data, and enabling a user to request an exception to create or modify a term of the at least one tender,

wherein the at least one tender includes at least one of a term and a condition, and

wherein the term and the condition are capable of being modified.

26. (Amended) A method for utilizing at least one tender, comprising the steps of:

Q5 receiving data for the at least one tender; and

transmitting information corresponding to the data; and

accepting a request for an exception to create or modify a term of the at least one tender,

wherein the at least one tender includes at least one of a term and a condition, and

wherein the term and the condition are capable of being modified.

35. (Amended) A set of instructions residing in a storage medium, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to implement a method for utilizing at least one tender, the method comprising the steps of:

Q6 receiving data for the at least one tender, the at least one tender being provided for a complex multi-variable commodity;